



Park Pages

the magazine of Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland



Letter from the Minister

Winter 2020

Dear Friends,

I write this letter with the radio on in the background. The main theme for the news is the announcement of the approval for the first vaccine to be used to combat Covid-19. Good news indeed for those of us who are particularly vulnerable to the impact of the pandemic. As it, and other vaccines, are provided to our nation over the next few months, it is hoped that some degree of normality to life will return. There is much still to be done, and we need to continue to practise care, but a light has dawned in the midst of the shadowlands of worry that have hung over many of us these last eight months.



Perhaps because of all that has taken place, Christmas comes to us this year with a particular poignancy and purpose. Just take time to reflect on two of the readings from the Christmas story read at the Nine Lessons and Carols service; namely, Isaiah 7 v 14 and Isaiah 9 v1, 6 and 7. So get your bibles out and come on a journey...

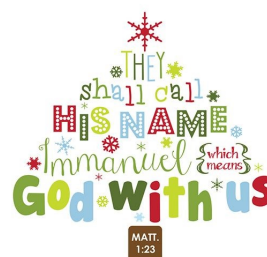
It is vital to know the context of both readings. In Isaiah 7, the King of Judah is given a sign that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is going to rescue little Judah from its enemy neighbours. Despite of the spiritual and moral barrenness of much of what was happening, King Ahaz was told that:

The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will call him, Immanuel, which means "God with us". Isaiah 7 v 14

It is the case, is it not, that children are a great giver of life and hope? Thankfully, younger children have largely been spared the physical ravages of Covid-19. Although suffering in other ways, their natural enthusiasm for life, and the ability to cope, speak much of living in a different way from so many of us. Little wonder that Jesus used children as an example of what we "oldies" must be like in our relationship with our Heavenly Father. And as birth speaks of new life and a future, so the name that was to be given to this child, Immanuel, was a witness to the fact that the Living God was in the midst of all that was happening, both good and ill. For Matthew writing his gospel, the concept of "God with us" is vital in his interpretation of the birth of Jesus. (Matthew 1 v 23). And so too for us.

Knowing the reality of Immanuel is a great encouragement and comfort in these often barren days!

However, this sign of "God with us", does not mean that hard times won't come. The context of Isaiah 9 makes that clear. To a people walking in darkness, a child is born who will be called **Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**. But therein lies the point. It is to a people walking in **darkness**. The context of these verses makes it clear that the darkness was indeed darkness! Spiritual waywardness, natural calamities and human callousness were the order of the day. (Isaiah 8) As earth is looked upon, many will see **"...only distress and darkness and fearful gloom."** (Isaiah 8 v 22)



It is into precisely such a world that the promise is given. [Nevertheless...Isaiah 9 v1](#)

And the promise is that from Galilee, by the way of the Sea, the people who have walked in darkness will see a great light. And with that light's coming, a victory over the yoke and oppression of the enemy will be broken (v4). Judgment on the perpetrator of so much of the world's ills will take place (v5), and those who have been longing for this light will rejoice as a new harvest of the Fruit of the Spirit will come (v3).

Surely as we unpack the meaning of these verses, we see that the message of the child being born is very relevant for today. Into our global "village", with all its potential for great blessing, but struggling with the shadows and darkness, not just of Covid-19, but with so many other ills and issues, God's Word still speaks. And note what it offers.



Many of our world leaders, and leading scientists, accept that this virus, and all its associated issues, have taxed human ingenuity. Our own Chancellor was recorded as saying that we have "lost the war" against it! While a vaccine is being sourced, we need wisdom from above to deal with the many other intractable issues of our present age. Human wisdom alone can never deal with them; indeed often the more we look to ourselves for the answers, the more we dig holes deeper for ourselves and others. Only that Wisdom that comes from above, the [Divine Counsellor and Comforter](#), can make sense of much that is happening around us.

Humanity has been thrown in to a funk through a little virus. All the great pomp and circumstance of our age has been stumped by a bug. While great and good efforts have been made in treatments and in finding a vaccine, scientists accept that there is the potential of the virus mutating which would make many of the possible treatments virtually powerless. Is not the God of the Ages trying to tell us something? How fragile humanity really is, and how [Mighty God](#) alone is!

Of course it is not only the blight of Covid-19 that will make this Christmas dark for many. Many contemporary sociologists, psychologists and analysts will tell you that one of the greatest ills of our present age is alienation, loneliness and a lack of any sense of belonging. The Creator God made humanity to live in perfect harmony with Him and to find its identity in its relationship with Him. In the Child that is born, He takes that Divine Initiative and enters into our world. The Christ Child makes it possible for sinful, fallen men and women to know Him again as [Our Father who is in Heaven](#).

My parents were a young, courting couple when the Second World War ended 75 years ago. They, along with many others, went up to Cathkin Braes in the outskirts of Glasgow, to celebrate VE night. As dusk came down over the city, which had known its own share of wartime burdens and sorrow, the searchlights that had been in the city to try and protect it from enemy bombers, were given new targets to fix their gaze upon. Carefully repositioned, they shone their light on some of the city's landmarks, and in particular on Glasgow Cathedral. Its green, copper roof was brightly illuminated and stood out as darkness fell. What a powerful, potent reminder that despite the dark night of war, the light of peace had dawned. How in these dark days, the [Light of Life](#) still shines with its promise of peace to those who seek it and desire it.

We may well have a different kind of Christmas this year. Covid-19 and many other things will cast their long shadow over our attempts at festivities. But the promise given to a dark and barren people centuries ago still stands true -

...a Child has been born to us, a Son given to us...and His Name is Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins. Matthew 1 v 18

And how can we have confidence that such a message will ring true today? Well, because...

...the greatness of His government and peace will know no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. Isaiah 9 v 7

This is the word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!
Amen!

Mr B Russell



Advent Communion Season

The Bread and Wine of Communion will be shared in an appropriate way, following denominational guidelines, from the evening of [Sunday 13 December](#) to [Friday 18 December 2020](#).

This will be shared at church-based Fellowship Groups and also during the times the church is open for private prayer and devotionals; namely, Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10.30am and Wednesday evening at 7.30pm.

If you do NOT currently come along to any of these gatherings, but would like to take communion, please phone the Minister on 01698 817256, to arrange a suitable time for you to attend. Unfortunately we cannot simply open the doors as we need to adhere strictly to agreed numbers.



The church will remain open for private prayer and devotionals during the Christmas and New Year periods.

Christmas Eve

Crib Service for younger families at 6.30pm

Watchnight Service in the church and on Zoom at 11.30pm

(The church will be open for those who cannot access Zoom and for visitors only)

Christmas Day

Christmas Day Celebration at 10.30am



I am His and He is mine

Arbroath has given us smokies and the Scottish Declaration of Independence, back in 1320. However, more recently even better things have come out of that lovely east coast village with the arrival of George and Anna Stewart into our fellowship. We thank them for sharing their life story with us here.



Tell us about your early life and education

Anna: I was born, went to school and worked in Alloa, Clackmannanshire. George and I married in 1970 and have just celebrated 50 years together. According to our youngest grandchild, that's 18,262 days, 438,288 hours and 26,297,280 minutes! We have been blessed with two lovely daughters, one grandson and five granddaughters! After marrying we lived in Auchtermuchty, Fife for ten years before moving to Arbroath and stayed there for 35 years. We moved to Cambuslang five years ago as George had been ill and our girls wanted us close by.

George: I was born in Alloa in 1938 and was my parents' first child to survive. They suffered the loss of a baby girl, Margaret in 1933, and a baby boy, John in 1936, both from chest infections. There was no penicillin in those days. When I was three, my Dad was called up and served in the 8th Army in North Africa. Mum and I stayed with my granny in Sauchie and I went to school there. However, we returned to Alloa in 1945 when Dad came home and I attended the local primary school (Park School). My brother Jim was born in 1947; I was overjoyed and loved him dearly. He passed away in 1989 and I miss him still.

I attended Alloa Academy for Senior School, leaving when I was 15 to get a job as an apprentice metallurgist at Harland Engineering Company. I earned the princely sum of £1.16.2d per week. Unbeknown to me a 15-year-old girl called Anna Deans was employed in the company's typing pool. I studied at night school in Alloa but a few years later went on day release to Coatbridge Technical College for the HNC Metallurgy course. I left Harland in 1964 to work in Robert Ferlie's Foundry in Auchtermuchty, travelling 27 miles by motorcycle each day until I got a car.

Anna and I were married in Sauchie UF Church in 1970. We moved to Auchtermuchty, into a house belonging to my boss. It was decorated for us completely free of charge and cost £1.50 per week; that included both rent and rates! During the ten years we lived there, our daughters Joyce and Margo were born. We moved to Arbroath in 1980 when I got the job as Chief Metallurgist with Giddings and Lewis Fraser, where I stayed till it closed in 2000.

Tell us about your journey to faith

Anna: My dad was Session Clerk for years in Sauchie and Fishcross United Free Church and I attended Sunday School, Christian Endeavour, Saturday Night Gospel Meetings, Road Builders and Prayer Meetings from an early age. I can't say when I became a Christian myself as it was a natural thing for me to become. I always knew God was there with me, leading me through life. I became an elder and then Session Clerk in Arbroath UF Church and when it shut, we moved to worship at Carnoustie UF Church.

George: I attended Greenside Church of Scotland in Alloa until I was three when my mother and I moved to Sauchie. When we returned to Alloa in 1945, we resumed worship at Greenside Church until it closed. We then moved to my granny's church, Alloa Baptist Church. In 1954, my family moved to Sauchie and we joined the United Free Church there. Anna and her family also attended this church, We often saw each other at Badminton Club, but it wasn't until 1969 when we both attended a Christian Endeavour Holiday Home in Rothesay, that we became closer and started going out together. Fifty years later we are still going out together!

I am not sure when I became a Christian. The seed was planted when I was a child and strengthened by the example of my family. I can still hear my granny singing those old Redemption hymns from my youth. As I grew older and faced the trials of life, I was aware of the Lord watching over me.

What brought you to Park?

Anna: We moved to Cambuslang five years ago as George had been ill and our girls wanted us to be near them. George, as most of you know, doesn't like this area (and that's putting it mildly!) but we're so glad we walked into Park Church. It was the light we needed. The first Sunday we arrived, Helen Ooi met us at the door and took us to seats beside her and made us feel so welcome. Many others welcomed us too. It just felt like being at home and Bruce's preaching was excellent. We are happy here and always feel God's presence when we enter the church. Thanks to you all!

George: I have to admit that Cambuslang was the last place I wanted to come to after 35 years in Arbroath. When we arrived, five years ago in November, it didn't stop raining for three months! But the SUN came out on the day we came to Park Church. We have been in a lot of churches but never had such a warm welcome as we received at the door and by the congregation. And also by Bruce, our minister. We knew that first morning that we had found our spiritual home.

What is your favourite hymn and its significance for you?

Anna: I had two sisters and a brother and they, as well as my parents, could sing but not me! However, I know lots of lovely hymns. If I had to choose one it would be:

O Jesus I have promised to serve thee to the end
Be thou for ever near me, my Master and my Friend
I shall not fear the battle, if Thou are by my side
Nor wander from the pathway, if Thou wilt be my guide. (MP501)

George: There are many hymns that I love but this one has special meaning for me. My dad, who was an elder for over 30 years, was 93 and in a nursing home. My mother passed away when she was 86. In church one Sunday we sang a hymn I had not heard for years. I thought that Dad would like it, and a few months later when he died, we sang it at his funeral. It's called Loved with Everlasting Love (MP 452) and the last line of every verse says,

I am His and He is mine.

A few days later I was going through dad's things and I found a folded up piece of paper on which Dad had written his testimony. In it he described his early years, and how and when he became a Christian. He said that was when he realised that "I am His and He is mine". Coincidence? Perhaps, but I too can say, I am His and He is mine.

What is your favourite verse of Scripture?

Anna: When I was young at the Saturday Night Meetings, people came and told us wonderful testimonies of how God did great things for them; I thought that should happen to everyone. I was concerned this didn't happen to me until I found **Romans 10 v 9**:

That if you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord", and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

That was when I knew I was a follower of Christ.

George: I originally read these verses, not in the bible but on the first page of a book. It was so unexpected that it sent shivers down my spine.

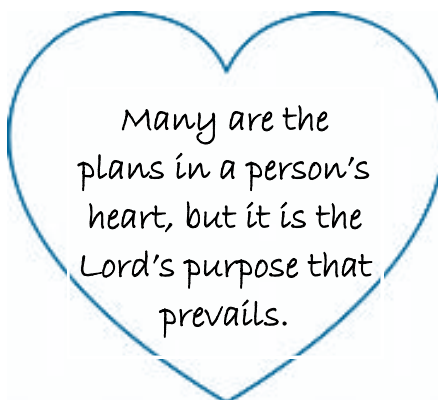
Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, You are there
If I make my bed in the depths, You are there
If I rise on the wings of the dawn
If I settle on the far side of the sea
Even there Your hand will guide me
Your right hand will hold me fast



These verses strengthened my assurance that God is always there with me, no matter where I am.



Each time circumstances have changed this year, or new regulations have left us feeling like the goalposts have been moved again, I've found myself using phrases like, "we should have been doing this just now", or "we would have been doing that". Time and again God has reminded me that:



Proverbs 19 v 21

If you had asked me nine months ago if MEGA would move online and be done on Zoom, I would have laughed and said that there was no way MEGA would work on Zoom. Part of the appeal of MEGA is the community feel as the children meet in the church and take part in a variety of activities with their friends; activities like dressing up, crafts and games. None of these are particularly suited to Zoom.

And yet, since May we have run five MEGA events on Zoom. Praise God that He is not bound by anything and that His purposes will prevail! It is a very different way of running a Children's Ministry; it has its setbacks, and yet, for this season, it works well. And God is definitely using it.

One of the biggest encouragements is the way God has used this season to deepen our relationships with the families of the MEGA children.

During MEGA on Zoom, many parents and family members are either in the same room as the children, or sit with them to help them with an activity. By accessing MEGA on Zoom, they are actually welcoming us into their homes, and allowing the Bible to be shared with them. Many of the parents have also expressed their gratitude to the church for thinking of the kids at this time and continuing to provide for them.



Can I encourage you to pray that God would use this expression of love to point these families to His love and care for them?



One mum got in touch with me to say that her daughter was really enjoying MEGA, but also how much the whole family is learning from it.

She went on to say that they have now begun reading a Bible story together each night as a family.



On the first Saturday in December, we had a MEGA Family Quiz on Zoom. We had 15 MEGA families join in, along with the MEGA team and some of their families too.

It was an afternoon of festive fun, with traditional quiz rounds, as well as some silly interactive rounds – like our Build a Snowman round, where each team had to dress up a member of their family as a snowman using toilet roll.

It was very heart-warming to see families coming together to spend time with each other having fun, particularly at a time when everyone is exhausted, and parents are feeling the strain of lockdown and the pressures that it adds to family life.



Please **PRAY** for the MEGA families that they would know God sustaining them during this time. And pray they would come to know and believe that :

God is good, His love is forever, and His loyalty goes on and on.

Psalm 100 v5

**GOD is
SO GOOD!**

Come let us sing for joy to the Lord!

Carols abound with scriptural truths and help us to celebrate the birth of Jesus. They are also a great way of introducing others to the Christmas story. The first carol is a well-known favourite that everyone knows, even if they are not a regular church-goer. The second is a new song, written this year, which invites people who do not see Christmas as a time of joy, to come and see for themselves what God has done for them.



O Come all you Faithful

The Latin version of this Christmas carol, *Adeste Fideles*, was written by John Francis Wade and was published in 1760. Wade fled England after the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion to teach music to British Roman Catholics in France. The English translation was written in 1841 by Frederick Oakley and William Brooke. There are some who claim that the text has clear references to Bonnie Prince Charlie who was intent of restoring the House of Stuart to the English throne! However, for our purposes we will look at the carol from the point of view of telling the story of the birth of Jesus and our call to adore him as the rightful King!

O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels
O come, let us adore Him x3
Christ the Lord!



We are encouraged to come and witness the birth of Christ just like the shepherds did all those years ago when the angel appeared to them out on the hillsides. Although we cannot see Jesus in the manger for ourselves, we can come to Bethlehem in a symbolic sense and use our imaginations to conjure up the scene the shepherds may have found in that humble stable.

God of God, Light of Light
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb
Very God
Begotten, not created
O come, let us adore Him x3
Christ the Lord!

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest
O come, let us adore Him x3
Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning
Jesus, to thee be glory given
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing
O come, let us adore Him x3

This verse takes its origins from the Nicene Creed.

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, light from light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.*

This carol was a favourite of American presidents Eisenhower and Jefferson, and has stood the test of time. We pray that as people hear it in shops, restaurants or even on TV commercials this Advent season, their hearts will be stirred by the words and they will seek out not just the baby Jesus, but the King Jesus that died and rose again so that we might spend eternity with Him.

To listen to the carol, click [here](#).

O come, all you Unfaithful

At first sight, you may think I have mistyped the title of this song, but I can assure you it is correct! Lisa Clow, one of the songwriters and also vocalist for *Sovereign Grace (SG)*, wanted to write a song that would encourage people who feel “too wearied, condemned or burdened” to enjoy Christmas. For many, Christmas is NOT the most wonderful time of the year as the well-loved secular song proclaims. Bob Kauflin, director of SG was intrigued by the title and told Lisa he’d like to help out on it. Their aim was to capture how the birth of Jesus is the best news for those struggling to find joy at Christmas. When grief feels unbearable, when sin weighs us down and heaven seems a fanciful notion that has no reality for most people, Christmas *does* provide us with the wonderful good news of the Saviour’s birth. Heaven comes to us. All of us.

1. O come, all you unfaithful
Come, weak and unstable
Come, know you are not alone
O come, barren and waiting ones
Weary of praying, come
See what your God has done

*Christ is born, Christ is born
Christ is born for you*

*He’s the lamb who was given
Slain for our pardon
His promise is peace
For those who believe x2*

3. So come, though you have nothing
Come, He is the offering
Come, see what Your God has done

*Christ is born, Christ is born
Christ is born for you
Christ is born, Christ is born*

The words and message are simple and SG wanted the video that accompanied the song to have the strongest impact. They invited people into the studio to listen to the song for the first time and captured their responses on video as they listened. These people are processing the song through the lens of their own experience, whether that be a miscarriage, a still born child, a strained marriage, feelings of shame, loneliness, legalism or loss. Or simply having a heart that weeps with those who weep.

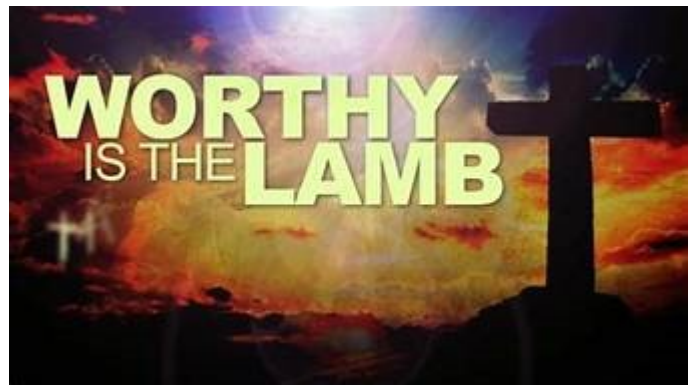
Their responses to the song emphasise the fact that Jesus wasn’t born for those who have everything sorted in their lives, He was born for those who have nothing. Jesus is the great healer,

You literally see burdens drop from the shoulders of these people and the worry and pain etched in their faces transformed to smiles and an acceptance and realisation that Christ is born for each and every one of us. Hallelujah!

To listen to the song click [here](#).

2. O come, bitter and broken
Come with fears unspoken
Come, taste of His perfect love
O come, guilty and hiding ones
There is no need to run
See what your God has done

*Christ is born, Christ is born
Christ is born for you*



Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11 v 28-30

Church News

Shoebox Appeal

Good News, Great Joy!

A simple shoebox gift packed with love and fuelled by prayer can have a huge impact! Although the Covid-19 global pandemic has disrupted everyday life for so many, Samaritan's Purse continues to share the eternal hope of the Gospel and to serve in Jesus' name.

Thank you to everyone who made up and donated a shoebox. A total of about 30 boxes were donated, which is obviously less than previous years, but understandable given the circumstances. However, it still means 30 children will receive gifts that otherwise they would not get. These boxes really make a difference to the life of a child and bless them with **joy, hope and love**.

This year all the boxes have been sent to three sorting and distribution centres in England to comply with Covid-secure regulations. All the volunteers and staff will have their temperature taken on entering, masks and hand sanitising is mandatory and there are strict cleaning procedures in place. **Nothing stops the work of God!**



In Memory of Jim Dow

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Jim Dow on Friday 13 November 2020, aged 89, in Hairmyres Hospital. He was surrounded by his family.

We pay tribute to Jim's faithfulness to this church and to God; he served as a church manager for over 40 years and was also a trustee of the church. Jim was the last surviving manager from a photograph taken in 1963 to commemorate the centenary of the church. Jim always sought to glorify God in any decisions he took.

Even though Jim's mobility had declined greatly over these last few years, he still struggled out to church as he wanted to be in the House of the Lord on a Sunday morning, to praise and worship God with his church family. He slipped in the side door but remained fiercely independent despite his mobility problems!

Jim gave his life to the Lord in 1955 when he and his wife, Helen, attended the Billy Graham All Scotland Crusade in the Kelvin Hall. Jim went forward for the altar call at the end of the evening and made his decision for Christ. Such was the importance of that evening, and the life-changing decision he made, that Jim kept the programme from that crusade in the front of his bible till his death.

The Technical Team

We would like to acknowledge all the hard work that went into getting the internet installed in the church; special thanks to [Stuart McLellan](#) and [Janice Clark-Dick](#). We all appreciate the live-streaming of the service from the church on a Sunday morning so grateful thanks go to [Gregor McDowall](#) for making this possible. Gregor has spent many long hours down at the church fine-tuning the process and we are grateful to him for giving up his time in this way. Also thanks to [Graeme Stangoe](#), both for hosting the Zoom sessions on a Sunday morning and for his work on the live stream with Gregor. Great team work!



Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour; if either of them falls down, once can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

Ecclesiastes 4 v 9-10

Christmas for the Kids



How many times have we heard the phrase, “Christmas won’t be the same this year”! Maybe it won’t but it doesn’t mean Christmas is cancelled; not even lockdown can do that. We may not be able to meet up with friends as in past years, but the message of Christmas remains the same.

Christmas is a magical time for children so here are a few ideas for things you can do together in the run up to the big day!

Christmas Tree Prayers

Many of us have put our Christmas trees up earlier than usual, desperate for a bit of light in the darkness. I’m sure your children love to help decorate the tree so why not incorporate some prayers on your tree this year? All you need to do is buy some pretty gift tags, maybe in the shape of an angel or a star, the glittery the better, and get your child to write the name of a person they want to pray for on the plain side. This could be a school friend, or their grandparents or someone they know is ill. Let them decide! Hang the prayer gift tags on the tree and as the lights shine on your tree, they will light up the prayer tags like little candles and remind your children to pray.



Nativity Scenes in Windows

As we can’t have our normal nativity play this year in the church building, it might be a nice idea for the children to get an old shoe box and make a nativity scene of their own which they could put in the living room window. They could make their own figures for Mary and Joseph, the baby Jesus, the wise men and shepherds etc from card, play doh or even lego. I’m sure they can come up with some brilliant suggestions themselves. When people are walking around the area, they will see these nativity scenes, especially if you are able to put some lights in the window, and will be reminded about the real meaning of Christmas. A perfect way to be a witness in your community!



Advent Collage

Another way to pass a cold winter’s afternoon is to make a collage. Encourage your children to look for materials, both inside and outside the house, and then make a collage. As you spend this family time together you can talk about Christmas and what it means to you.



Carols at Bedtime

Children will miss singing carols this Christmas with the restrictions in place, so why not pick a different carol to sing at bedtime? There are hundreds of carols, from the well-known favourites like Silent Night to newer ones by the Gettys or Rend Collective. Why not look online together to find ones you like and then learn them at bedtime? These carols teach scriptural truths but in a fun and easily remembered way!



Finally a wee poem about a Christmas tree.

Silver Strands

It sparkles there for all to see
Threaded round the Christmas tree
Silver tinsel shining bright
Silver strands of Christian light
It shines and sparkles as a symbol
Of the love Christ has for us all
A strand of love, looped and curled
Threaded all around the world
And when you look at the Christmas tree
Silver strands of love you’ll see.

Paul Curtis



The Christmas Gift



C

is for the child born that night to be our light (John 8 :12)

H

is for holy is His name (Rev 4:8)

R

is for rejoice with gladness and joy (Luke 1:14)

I

is for Immanuel, God with us (Isaiah 7:14)(John 1:14)

S

is for the star that led the Wise Men to Him (Matthew 2:2)

T

is for the truth and grace that was sent our way (John 1:14)

M

is for Mary laying Him in swaddling clothes in the manger (Luke 2:7)

A

is for the angels singing songs of joy (Luke 2:14)

S

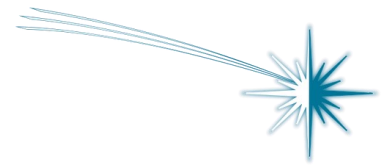
is for SALVATION



Johnnie DesRochers



Christmas at Park



Many thanks to Janice Clark-Dick and family for sourcing and decorating this beautiful tree for our church sanctuary.

As the lights shine in the darkness, we are reminded of the [Light of the World](#) that entered the world that first Christmas Day. Jesus didn't show up when everything was "merry and bright"; He was born into the darkness of a deeply broken and suffering world, much like ours today. Jesus, the [Hope of the World](#), brought a light that no darkness could overcome. So although Christmas might not be the same as usual this year, the [Hope of Christmas](#) is the same as it was all those years ago and we can echo the praise of the angels who proclaimed:

*Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace
Hail the Son of Righteousness
Light and Life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings*



The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1 v 5



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